

The Files

4 December 1958

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Trip Report - 8th National Plastics Exposition

1. On November 17, 18, and 19, I attended the 8th National Plastics Exposition in Chicago. All of my time was spent at the Amphitheatre viewing the exhibits and talking to various representatives.

2. I was particularly interested in the problems of mold making. Since we will undoubtedly have only small production requirements, I was looking for shortcuts and ways to save time and money in the making of these molds. In talking with various representatives, it appears that there are no real shortcuts nor do the freer machining metals, i.e. brass, aluminum and soft steel, appear satisfactory. The only real saving will be in the fact that we can take one standard mold base and fit it with various molds made as inserts to fit this base.

3. Since most molders and mold makers are concerned with high production runs and since there is always some trial and error present in the making of a successful mold, it rapidly became apparent that we will have to develop our own skills and techniques.

4. Most of the equipment on display was automatic and geared to high production. In viewing the injection molding machines, I am sure that we have made an excellent choice in selecting the Van Dorn. Of all the machines on display it appears to be the one most suitable to our needs.

5. In summary, I believe that plastic molding will be a very valuable addition to our capabilities. However, since our requirements are unique, we are going to have to develop our own skills and techniques and this I believe can only be done through experience. I hope that during the next year considerable time can be allocated for this purpose.

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Lab/REH/bao (4 Dec. 58)